

Message Text

SECRET

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S/S:RKKUCHEL

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 088411

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, US,SY, LE

SUBJECT: NON-BELLIGERENCY CONCEPT: LEBANON

REF: CAIRO, 4039; CAIRO, 4833

1. YOU SHOULD TELL SADAT AND FAHMY THE FOLLOWING ABOUT NON-BELLIGERENCY CONCEPT:

A. THE SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED WITH HUSSEIN WHILE HE WAS IN WASHINGTON. HIS REACTION RELATED PRIMARILY TO THE JORDANIAN ROLE AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE RABAT SUMMIT. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THAT, IN VIEW OF THE SUMMIT RESULTS, HE WAS NO LONGER ABLE TO NEGOTIATE FOR THE WEST BANK. HE DID NOT TURN DOWN THE ISRAELI CONCEPT ON ITS MERITS, THOUGH HE ALSO DID NOT ENDORSE IT.

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B. AMBASSADOR MURPHY HAS RETURNED TO DAMASCUS WITH

INSTRUCTIONS TO DISCUSS THE CONCEPT WITH ASAD, AND WE ASSUME ASAD IS AWARE THAT HE IS PREPARED TO DO SO. THE LEBANESE PROBLEM HAS PREOCCUPIED THE SYRIANS TO SUCH AN EXTENT, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAVE NOT PRESSED TO TAKE UP THE NON-BELLIGERENCY ISSUE FOR THE MOMENT.

2. REGARDING LEBANON, YOU SHOULD TELL FAHMY/SADAT THAT

I APPRECIATED THE MESSAGE FROM SADAT AND AM ENCOURAGED BY HIS AGREEMENT THAT THE SYRIAN ROLE IN LEBANON CAN BEST BE MINIMIZED IF THE LEBANESE WILL COOPERATE PROMPTLY TO SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS. WE BELIEVE THAT ALL GOVERNMENTS WITH INFLUENCE IN LEBANON SHOULD PRESS THE FACTIONS TO DO THIS. REGARDING THE RECENT INTERVENTION OF SYRIAN TROOPS INTO THE BORDER AREAS OF LEBANON, WE ARE REAFFIRMING TO THE SYRIANS OUR JUDGMENT THAT MILITARY INTERVENTION IS DANGEROUS. WE SUCCEEDED IN OUR EFFORTS TO URGE RESTRAINT ON THE ISRAELIS THIS TIME, BUT THIS DOES NOT ALTER OUR CONVICTION THAT SYRIA IS TAKING GREAT RISKS FOR REGIONAL PEACE BY SUCH ACTIONS. KISSINGER

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